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V. *Drepanocladus revolvens* Sw. var. *intermedius* (Lindb.) Ren. a very fine looking moss with nicely curled or circinate leaves, occurs in a deep peat bog at Oka, P. Q. in company with *Hypnum stellatum*.

VI. *Drepanocladus scorpioides* L. occurs in the same habitat as the preceding, growing with *Hypnum giganteum*. It has stout stems which are slightly secund.

SEMINARY OF PHILOSOPHY, MONTREAL, CANADA.

JOHN MACOUN

A. LEROY ANDREWS

The following biographical facts represent a brief abstract of a memoir prepared by W. T. Macoun, sole surviving son of the deceased, for publication in the Canadian Field Naturalist, for a manuscript copy of which I am indebted directly to Dr. Jennings and through him to the author.

John Macoun, long known to botanists as Naturalist to the Geological Survey of Canada, died on July 18, 1920, in his ninetieth year, his older son, James M. Macoun, for many years associated with him in the botanical work of the Canadian Geological Survey, having died a few months before him. The older Macoun was Scotch-Irish, born at Maralin in the vicinity of Belfast. In 1850 his family migrated to Canada, settling in the forest-region of Ontario, where they cleared a farm. The future botanist began his career by teaching in a country school, and after a course in a Normal School became head of the public schools in Belleville, Ontario, with which place much of his early botanical activity is associated. In 1874 he was appointed Professor of Botany and Geology in Albert College, Belleville, in 1881 Botanist to the Dominion Government, by which he had already been engaged for part of his time since 1872, in 1887 Assistant Director and Naturalist of the Geological Survey, which last position he held until his death, though he retired from active official duties in 1912.

His botanical collecting was in many respects pioneer work and has contributed in no little degree to the clearing up of facts of plant-distribution in British America. In 1872 he was botanist of the Fleming expedition, whose problem was to explore a route for the Canadian Pacific railway; in 1875 he was botanist with the Selwyn expedition to the Peace River region and the Rockies; in 1879, 1880, and 1881 he further explored the prairie region of the northwest and became an enthusiastic prophet of its future wheat-growing possibilities; in 1905 he made his way along the route of the Grand Trunk Pacific railway to the Yukon Territory. In fact in the years (1882-1912) of his residence at Ottawa he was nearly every summer engaged in collecting and exploring in some part of British America. During the last years of his life he was still busily occupied with botanical observations on Vancouver Island.

The record of his botanical collections, so far as at present accessible, is to be found in his "Catalogue of Canadian Plants," published in seven parts from

1883 to 1902. At his death he left in an advanced stage of preparation annotated lists of the floras of the Ottawa region, of Nova Scotia and of Vancouver Island.

His work as naturalist was by no means confined to plants; several species from the animal kingdom also perpetuate his name. His especial interest in birds is further attested by his "Catalogue of Canadian Birds," published in three parts from 1900 to 1904, republished in one volume with the assistance of his son, J. M. Macoun, in 1909.

It was only a part of Macoun's comprehensive activities that was devoted to bryology, and the determination of his specimens was entrusted to others. Much of his collecting activity fell between the time of the older group of American bryologists and that of the more recent one and recourse was had to Europeans. The hepatics were worked over first by Austin, then by the English hepaticologist, Pearson, subsequently by Underwood, Howe, and Evans; their study has developed normally and they are now apparently well understood. *Cephalozia Macounii*, *Odontoschisma Macounii*, *Lejeunea Macounii* and *Anthoceros Macounii* will doubtless perpetuate the memory of their collector. The *Sphagna* were mostly submitted to the German bryologist, Warnstorf, in the days of his more accurate work, and have caused little trouble.

The case with the other mosses is entirely different. They passed mostly through the hands of the Swede, Kindberg, who at first worked in collaboration with the German, Carl Müller (of Halle). Carl Müller was a specialist who received a large part of the extra-European mosses collected in his day and who developed an irresponsibility as to species from which bryology still suffers. His herbarium is now in the Museum of the Botanical Garden at Berlin-Dahlem and the "Waberlohe" with which it seemed to many of us to have been formerly enclosed appears to have been somewhat reduced, while Fleischer has also begun an apparently praiseworthy revision of its specimens.¹ Kindberg showed a still greater species irresponsibility than Müller. Macoun generously tried to defend him,² and his fellow-countryman, Arnell, also put in a word in his favor,³ but could certainly not have looked very closely into his specimens. A rather interesting characterization of Kindberg as a field bryologist was given by Röhl,⁴ who took part with him in an excursion in Switzerland and Italy. It appears that Kindberg was an enthusiastic lover of nature and an amiable personality.

The older Macoun and, after his retirement from active service, his son were always ready to loan any specimens to American moss-students who wished light upon Kindberg's "species," and the almost inevitable reductions that followed were borne with apparent philosophical composure, with the faith that science could be depended upon ultimately to straighten out all difficulties. In frequently-arising cases of doubt as to name and duplication the authorities of the Naturhistoriska Riksmuseum of Stockholm have been extremely generous

¹ Hedwigia, LV, 280 ff., 1914, and in subsequent volumes.

² Catalogue of Canadian Plants, VII, p. IV. 1902.

³ Botaniska Notiser, 1912, 119 ff.

⁴ Hedwigia, LVII, 344 ff. 1916.

in the loaning of specimens from Kindberg's herbarium, as of their mosses generally. The slowly progressing moss-volume of "North American Flora" should bring final clarity as to Kindberg's names; they are on the other hand undoubtedly one of the impediments to its progress. However, light follows darkness, Macoun's moss-collecting remains a great achievement, and the call to American bryologists for more and better work is an imperative one.

ITHACA, N. Y.

LITTLE JOURNEYS INTO MOSSLAND

IV—LUMINOUS MOSS

GEORGE B. KAISER

To many of us the quest of *Schistostega osmundacea* has been fraught with frequent memorable adventurings into the pleasantest by-ways of Nature.

In THE BRYOLOGIST (Volume V, page 52) J. Warren Huntingdon tells us how he discovered this moss "on one of those splendid hillsides which we may find in any hill town of New Hampshire," saying, further, "I came to a mass of rocks tilted together in such a way as to form something like a cave; looking down this fissure into the semi-darkness, I saw a little circle of light about a foot in diameter. Thinking this might be some decaying matter that gave out phosphorescent light, I examined some of it and found I had a very delicate frond-like moss * *

* * this is the way I found the 'Leuchtmoos.'"

Dr. A. J. Grout, in the same volume of THE BRYOLOGIST, on page 103, relates how he found bits of *Schistostega* in a cave known as "Devil's Den" at the top of Mt. Prospect, in Holderness, N. H., and later, "on the soil and stones of the underpinning of an old shed in Newfane, Vt., on the farm adjoining the one where I spent my youth and childhood, and in the very place where I had often played hide and seek. * * * Here were square inches, almost square feet, of the glistening protonema, whose brilliancy could only be seen by stooping until one looked in upon it at the same level as the entering rays of light.

Like many others, we long ago began eagerly to peer into every dim cave and under every overhanging rock that we encountered on our excursions in the hope that we might observe that beautiful shimmering light which is reflected from the protonema of the Luminous Moss. The search long remained a vain one. In 1909, indeed, our hopes ran high when we had the pleasure of spending several days on the summit of Mt. Mansfield, Vt. Dr. Grout, in 1906, had visited the mountain in company with the Vermont Botanical Club (THE BRYOLOGIST, Vol. X, p.6) and had then found *Schistostega* to be "abundant in the deep clefts in overhanging rocks on the northeast side of the mountain, below a point in the road about a quarter of a mile from the hotel" and, also, "in a crevice about ten feet to the left of the cave on the north side of the 'Nose'." A guest at the Summit House well remembered the bryological feats of Dr. Grout, declaring that "he would often risk life and limb to get the moss he was after." Now, whether